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22 September 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: COINS Working Group Meeting of 21 September 1966

1. The COINS Working Group met at NSA at 1000 this date with the following people present:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <div data-bbox="527 1066 625 1081" data-label="Text"> <p>---</p> </div> | <div data-bbox="638 871 833 1308" data-label="Text"> <p>[REDACTED]</p> </div> | <div data-bbox="842 886 1107 1293" data-label="List-Group"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NSA - NPIC - CIA - DIA - State ----- - DIA/SO - DIA - DIA - DIA - NSA - CSS/CIA </div> |
|---|---|---|

2. [REDACTED] asked whether there was any established method for the COINS Working Group to communicate with CODIB. [REDACTED] replied that there was the mechanism of the meeting minutes and, possibly, a series of progress reports which [REDACTED] is now considering. [REDACTED] indicated that he had something else in mind; however, he didn't elaborate or press his point.)

3. [REDACTED] indicated that CIA and NPIC, respectively, had approved the COINS paper on message formatting for the COINS experiment. Both indicated they could not approve the communications paper because CIA and NPIC do not have formal authorization to proceed with COINS (i.e., spend money).

4. [REDACTED] announced that "transliteration" would be the principal subject of the COINS biographic panel meeting scheduled for 1000, 26 September 1966, at CIA. He said the transliteration problem was a very parochial one and that nobody wants to change his own system.

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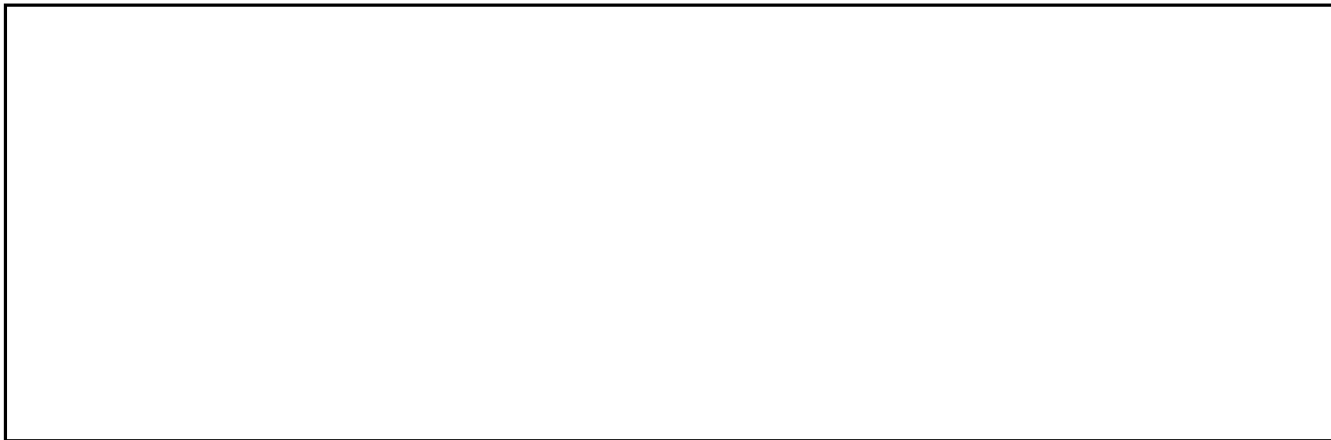
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25X1 5. [] said that he was still looking into CIA's (Briggs') request for an evaluation of the direct linkup of query stations to the NSA computer system. He said that [] had called him last week asking for an answer. (In an aside, [] said that the NSA system was saturated now and that no more files could possibly be added. He said that it wasn't a matter that could be solved by adding more tape drives; the computer simply can't do any more work).

25X1
25X1

25X1 6. [] said that ^{STATE} ~~it~~ was progressing in identifying and scheduling people to receive DIA training in the ISIC query language. 25X1 [] speaking in part for [] said that the entire matter of training for COINS might be big enough to warrant setting up a special group to handle it. He said that DIA conducts query language training in the context of a specifically selected file; the language parameters are taught and then the student experiments with a specific file. This process takes some three weeks and DIA does not have the resources to conduct such training for COINS people. 25X1 [] said that he had never really thought of the problem in these terms because the NSA analysts are more a part of their system and do not require such extensive training. [] said that CIA has a "closed-shop" operation much the same as DIA and that CIA analysts know generally what's in the files but they must use an intermediary to get at the information in the file. He agreed with [] 25X1 position. [] promised that he would think about the problem and see what could be done. 25X1



25X1 8. [] reported that he had not done anything on his promised paper on the user's role in COINS technical evaluation.

25X1 9. [] called for each member to give a brief progress report.

CIA - Software development is almost complete.
Has an information retrieval language.
Has ability to call information from the

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25X1

Approved For Release 2005/03/16 : CIA-RDP80B01139A000100130020-7

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25X1 14. [] distributed a copy of his working paper on COINS
25X1 evaluation. The paper was basically a consolidation of papers
25X1 which [] and others had submitted earlier. (I can probably
get a copy from []

25X1 15. [] turned to his "central files concept" and referred
25X1 to a DCID on responsibilities for maintenance of various files in
25X1 the community. [] said that he didn't think the COINS group had
authority to get into this problem and decide who should maintain
what files. [] referred to the CODIB COINS Progress Report
(paragraph 3c) to support his contention that the group does have
authority to study the problem. After some discussion, it was agreed
that the COINS group could study the problem but it couldn't implement
on its own authority. [] said he would like to set up a panel
to look at all the ROB files re the central files concept. He asked
for nominations.

25X1

17. Next COINS meeting will be 5 October. Subjects to be
discussed include COINS evaluation and people for the ROB study
group.

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